WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Starvation Deaths in Andhra Pradesh

* 164. DR. DASARINARAYANA RAO:
DR. Y LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central assistance given to Andhra Pradesh has been fully utilised by the State Government;

(b) how the cases of starvation death are still continuing in certain districts like Mehboob Nagar of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) whether the State Government would be asked to take care of infirm villagers of the drought prone areas who could not migrate due to dotage to prevent starvation deaths?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that the Central assistance given to them has been fully utilised.

(b) The State Government has informed that there are no starvation deaths in the State.

(c) The State Government has informed that they are taking care of such villagers.

ICAR scam

* 165. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Indian Express dated 15th May, 2000, captioned "Scientist is shunted out for highlighting an ICAR scam";

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken to probe the purchase of computers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scientist has not been shunted.

(c) The matter is being enquired into.

Torture of Indian Employees in Ford Motor Unit in Britain

† *166. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a matter related to citizens of Indian origin, who were working as employees in the unit of Ford Motor in Britain, having been beaten by the officers for maintaining apartheid after closure of that unit**;** and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Government has noted press reports regarding this issue.

(b) In the reported case a British national of Indian origin lodged complaint with East London Employment Tribunal, where at the hearings. Ford Company is reported to have accepted liability.

The Government of India's intervention was not required.

Rush Disease in Soyabean

† *167. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soyabean crop has been affected with the 'rust' disease in some parts of Madhya Pradesh for the past few years;

(b) the steps being taken by Government for the prevention and protection in this regard;

(c) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has received any proposal from the Jawahar Lai Nehru Agricultural University in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The incidence of soyabean rust was reported in 6 districts during Kharif 1997 and in 5 districts during Kharif 1998 as per details given in the Statement *(See* below). There was no incidence of rust disease during 1999.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.